

INFORMATION SHEET

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO.
BELL-CARTER OLIVE COMPANY
SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE MAINTENANCE
ORANGE COVE
FRESNO COUNTY

An inactive olive brine waste impoundment is located on the Bell-Carter Olive Company (BCOC) property on Monson Avenue between East Parlier Avenue and Manning Avenue approximately one mile southwest of Orange Cove, California. The lined impoundment is located in the SE ¼ of Section 23, T15S, R24E, MDB&M. The impoundment is approximately two acres in area and approximately 9 feet deep. The containment system consisted of a 20-mil polyvinyl chloride (PVC) membrane and a percolation monitoring/leak detection system consisting of a 6-inch diameter perforated PVC pipe. Discharge of brine water, a by-product of olive processing, began in 1977 and ended approximately 1985.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community-Panel Number 065029 1240 B, effective date 1 December 1982, the site lies within the 100-year flood boundary. According to the map, the brine pond is situated in an area where the 100-year flood reaches an elevation of approximately 400 feet above mean sea level. The elevation of the site varies from about 397 feet to 402 outside of the impoundment area.

The former facility is underlain by Pliocene to Pleistocene age alluvial fan materials. Borings indicate the subsurface soil underneath the site are primarily comprised of fine to medium grained sands, silty sands, and clayey sands. Depth to groundwater is approximately 35 feet with a flow direction to the southeast. The designated beneficial uses of groundwater include domestic and agricultural.

Results of site hydrogeologic investigations indicate that brine wastewater migrated from the impoundment, impacting the underlying soil and groundwater. Four monitoring wells exist at the site. Past discharges have caused soils and underlying groundwater to be impacted with brine constituents, sodium and chloride, at greater than background concentrations. BCOC intends on closing the brine pond as a landfill per CCR Title 27.

The proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) require the capping of the surface impoundment. BCOC has proposed to close the surface impoundment using an engineered alternative cover system, substituting a flexible membrane liner for the compacted clay layer of the prescriptive cover design and an asphalt layer as the erosion-resistant layer. These WDRs requires BCOC to complete the Evaluation Monitoring Program and final closure in accordance with a time schedule in the WDRs.

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Compliance with the WDRs and the Monitoring and Reporting Program should preclude further groundwater degradation and mitigate impacts to groundwater and any potentially human health hazard.

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